

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
H	367



n Lexington

ress 2 Oakland Street

toric Name Milt Merriam House

Present residential

Original residential

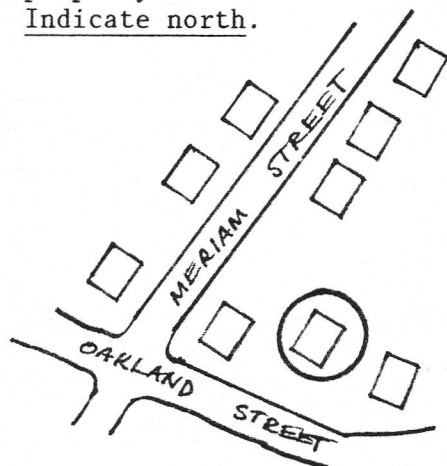
SCRIPTION:

1894

Source Lexington Minute Man, March 16, 1894

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Style Shingle Style/Queen Anne

Architect Walter J. Paine of Boston

A.C. Washburn, builder

Exterior wall fabric shingles

Outbuildings garage

Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage .3 A. (15000 ft.<sup>2</sup>)

Setting Residential street; intermingling of late nineteenth century and more recent houses; the Meriam shoe findings factory building is across the street.

Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

Typical of the late nineteenth century development of Meriam Hill, and particularly well documented, this house draws upon the Shingle Style for its massing, cruciform gambrel roof extending down over the second floor (called a duplex gambrel in the contemporary account quoted below), exterior fieldstone chimney, and "eyelid" lintel on a second-story window (right side). Other features such as the polygonal and semicircular balustraded bay windows, on the right and left sides respectively, leaded glass windows and deep console bracket at the right front corner derive from the Queen Anne style.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

Matthew H. Merriam (b. 1824) moved to Lexington before 1875. He resided first in the Italianate Samuel Chandler mansion on Goodwin Road. When his partner died in 1880, Merriam relocated his shoe findings factory to Oakland Street from Charlestown. At the age of 60, Merriam built a new house directly across from his factory. The architect, Walter J. Paine of Boston, had designed the Hancock Church bordering the <sup>Lexington</sup> Green a year earlier. The contractor, Abram C. Washburn, was Lexington's most prolific carpenter/contractor/speculative builder in the late nineteenth century. Because Matthew Merriam was one of Lexington's most prominent citizens as proprietor of its most successful factory and trustee of the Lexington Savings Bank, his house was thoroughly described in the newspaper:

Mr. M.H. Merriam and family removed from their mansion house off Hancock street to their attractive new home on Oakland street, last week, Thursday, and are now quite at home in their new quarters. The house is picturesque in design, is conveniently planned and is finished inside with much taste. It is a shingled structure with a duplex gambrel roof, and one of the most striking features is a handsome outside chimney built of fieldstone and granite, which is built in conjunction with the foundation story of the large circular

(see Continuation Sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, p. 431. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Hurd, D. Hamilton, editor. History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Volume I, p. 631. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis and Company, 1890.

Lexington Minute Man, March 16, 1894, July 20, 1894, October 19, 1894.

1889 atlas

June 15, 1894

1906 atlas

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lexington	Form No: 367
Property Name: 2 Oakland Street	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL      SIGNIFICANCE

bay window on the west side of the house, and adds materially to the pleasing effect. A handsome veranda stretches across the front of the house, the roof being supported by a unique arrangement of clustered pillars. The reception hall is of good size and the staircase effectively arranged, the finish being in antique oak. The parlor and reception room is large and a very pleasant room. The finish is white enamel and the distinctive feature is a handsome mantel and open fireplace. The dining room is cozy and prettily decorated in old rose, with a handsome cupboard and sideboard filling convenient niches. A small room on this floor is devoted to Mrs. Merriam's special use. The kitchen and its appointments are perfect, as is also the heating arrangements, and electric lights and bells add much to the conveniences of the house. Upstairs there is a study and several excellent sleeping apartments, while the cupboards, clothes-press and other commodious closet and storage room would delight the heart of a housekeeper. The bathroom is a model of neatness with its porcelain tub and its exposed nickle-plated plumbing, all open and above board, with no lurking places for disease germs. It is withal as pretty and compact a home as one could desire to have.

(Lexington Minute Man, October 26, 1894)

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
LEXINGTON

Property Address  
2 OAKLAND ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

H

367

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

M.H. Merriam only lived at 2 Oakland Street a few years before passing away in January 1898. The house was occupied briefly by Dr. Edward Rolfe before Edwin C. Stevens purchased the property in 1900. Stevens worked as a buyer and seller for a Boston molasses company. Edwin and Ida Stevens continued to live here until about 1926.

Later occupants included Edward Fenn (1932), Roger Merryman (1942) and Virginia Murphy (1969-1999).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Lexington Directories, various dates.

*Lexington Minute-Man*, Jan. 26, 1898; Sept. 21, 1900

Sanborn Insurance Maps, Lexington, various dates.

Supplement prepared by:  
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